PCARA Update

Volume 27, Issue 3 Peekskill/Cortlandt Amateur Radio Association Inc. March 2026

Limited resources

February 2026 saw challenging weather, several members traveling away from the local area and an indisposed editor. As a result, there have been limited submissions for the March 2026 *PCARA Update* newsletter. This abbreviated edition begins with minutes of the February 7th PCARA meeting as recorded by Lou KD2ITZ.

PCARA Meeting Minutes
February 7, 2026, Putnam Valley Library

In Attendance: Christie Kroll, David Fredsall, Greg Appleyard, Joe Calabrese, John Thompson, Lou Cassetta, Marylyn Nahl, Michael Ardovino, Ray Martin, Robert Gill, Robert Tarsio, Zee Martin

Meeting: called to order by Robert, N2CBH

Secretary's Report: Lou KD2ITZ introduced John Thompson to the group. John is a new club member and is studying for his amateur radio licensing exams. He already holds a GMRS callsign WSIV540. All attendees took turns sharing a few things about themselves.

Lou reported that there have been two VE test sessions since the last club meeting. A test session was held on the campus of Lakeland High School on January 15, 2026. Three of the four students qualified for Technician licenses. An additional test session was held on Saturday January 17 at Putnam Valley Library and a high school student from Neversink, NY qualified for Technician. Lou mentioned that there were no candidates scheduled for today's VE test session.

The February 7 PCARA meeting took place at Putnam Valley Library. *[KD2ITZ pic.]*

Putnam Valley Library's Community Room was undergoing further construction in early February. *[KD2ITZ pic].*

Lou also discussed that he and Jasper NK2Y had a meeting with one of the new members of the BOCES regional safety staff. The BOCES facilities director may be amenable to locating an amateur repeater on campus, but there may be costs associated with building out a space for the equipment.

Treasurer's Report: David KD2EVI presented the report.

Infrastructure Engineering: Robert N2CBH reported that all club repeaters are operational. He mentioned that there are no audible courtesy tones when using this equipment. A discussion was held about deploying standby repeaters and automatic switching devices for activating secondary transceivers during times of failure.

Director's Report: Robert AD2CT mentioned that he will be attending the Orlando HamCation®. He plans to post video footage of the event to the PCARA YouTube channel. (Rob's HamCation video was posted to the PCARA YouTube Channel on February 24. See: https://www.youtube.com/@peekskillcortlandtamateurr7670.)

Robert has been in contact *Continued on page 2* ⇨

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with Andy Stewart KB1OIQ about presenting at the March PCARA Meeting. Andy has released a popular Linux distribution with software packages of interest to amateur radio operators. Robert also mentioned that he plans to test Meshtastic in the local area in anticipation of organizing a PCARA Meshtastic Hardware assembly event.

Rob AD2CT has posted his video report on the Orlando HamCation® 2026 on PCARA's YouTube Channel.

Upcoming events

Please mark your calendar with the following items.

- Saturday March 7, 2026 10:15 a.m. **PCARA Meeting**, Putnam Valley Library., 30 Oscawana Lake Rd, Putnam Valley, NY. Guest speaker **Andy Stewart, KB1OIQ**, developer of Andy's Ham Radio Linux. See: https://sourceforge.net/projects/kb1oiq-andysham/
- Saturday March 7, 2026, Putnam Valley Library, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. **VE Test Session**. Candidates should contact Rob AD2CT ad2ct'at'arrl.net. Register online using: https://exam.tools/reg/699e488a9003a95afdec20c4
- Saturday March 21, 2026. 9:00 a.m. **PCARA Breakfast**, Uncle Giuseppe's Marketplace, 327 Downing Drive, Yorktown Heights, NY.
- Saturday April 4, 2026 10:15 a.m. **PCARA Meeting**, Putnam Valley Library.
- Saturday April 4, 2026, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. **VE Test Session**, Putnam Valley Library.

PCARA Board

President:
Greg Appleyard, KB2CQE; kb2cqe 'at' arrl.net
Vice President:
Bob Tarsio, N2CBH; bob 'at' broadcast-devices.com
Secretary:
Lou Cassetta, KD2ITZ; radiocassetta 'at' gmail.com
Treasurer:
David Fredsall KD2EVI; joanndavidss88 'at' verizon.net
Director:
Robert Gill AD2CT
Vice President Emeritus: Joe Calabrese, WA2MCR.

Net night

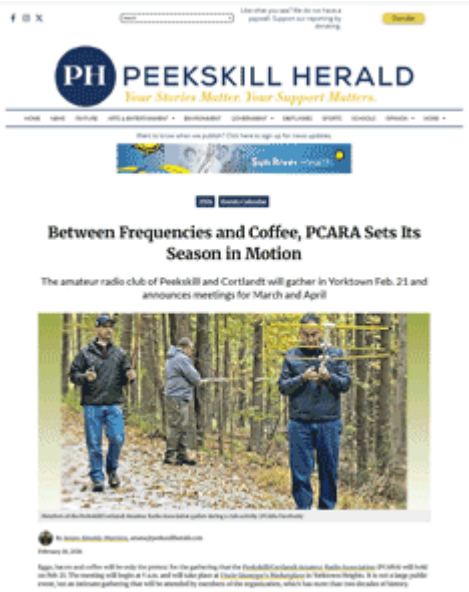
Peekskill/Cortlandt Amateur Radio Association holds a roundtable net on Tuesday evenings at 8:00 p.m. and a directed 'Old Goats' net on Thursday evenings at 8:00 p.m. Both events take place on the 146.67 MHz W2NYW repeater, offset -0.600, PL 156.7 Hz.

Join the roundtable to find out what members have been doing or join the Old Goats with net control Karl N2KZ for news and neighborly information.

Peekskill Herald

As noted by Todd N2MUZ, an article about PCARA appeared in the online publication *Peekskill Herald* on February 18 2026. See: https://peekskillherald.com/36263/events-calendar/between-frequencies-and-coffee-pcara-sets-its-season-in-motion/.

The article by Ariana Almeida-Martínez, described how eggs, bacon and coffee would be only the pretext for the breakfast gathering at 9:00 a.m. on Feb. 21 at Uncle Giuseppe's Marketplace in Yorktown Heights. It would not be a large public event, but an intimate gathering attended by members of PCARA, which has more than two decades of history.


PEEKSKILL HERALD
Your Stories Matter. Your Support Matters.
Between Frequencies and Coffee, PCARA Sets Its Season in Motion
The amateur radio club of Peekskill and Cortlandt will gather in Yorktown Feb. 21 and announces meetings for March and April

The article also described upcoming monthly meetings including the March 7 event when Andy Stewart, KB1IOQ will present his project "Andy's Ham Radio Linux," a Linux-based system designed for individuals who practice amateur radio and wish to use specialized software to communicate from a computer.

Spring forward

Daylight saving time begins at 2:00 a.m. local time on Sunday morning, March 8th 2026. Clocks should be moved forward by 1 hour to 3:00 a.m. local time.

In the United Kingdom, clocks go forward on Sunday March 29th 2026. As a result, there are three weeks in March when USA Eastern Time and U.K. Time are only 4 hours apart instead of the usual 5 hours.

HamCation® - Orlando 2026 - Rob AD2CT

HamCation® 2026 was hosted by the ARRL Southeastern Division in Orlando, Florida from Friday, February 13, to Sunday, February 15. I traveled to Orlando a couple of days early to allow for any potential weather delays.

At the convention, one of my main goals — besides having a good time — was to interview as many vendors as possible, in order to create a video for the club's YouTube channel. A number of vendors were very generous with their time. I also got to meet up with a few well-known YouTubers: Josh KI6NAZ (from Ham Radio Crash Course), Jason KM4ACK (from his self-titled channel), and Jason KC5HWB (from Ham Radio 2.0).

L to R: Rob AD2CT and Josh KI6NAZ from Ham Radio Crash Course.

L to R: Jason KC5HWB, Jason KM4ACK, and Rob AD2CT.

I also had a chance to speak with "Doc" Ballard, W0MOH, a Vietnam veteran and Medal of Honor winner, who made his first HF contact at the event.

Shortly after the video was posted to our channel, I reached out to all the contacts I made during the convention to thank them for their time. Here are some of the replies received:

"I am glad to do the video with you and thank you for allowing me to start the show!" – Ray Novak, N9JA, Senior Sales Manager at Icom America Inc.

"Very cool! Thanks for sharing." – Jason KM4ACK, YouTuber

"Thanks for having us on your channel. We had a lot (of) great visitors. We have already reserved a spot for next year. Hope to see you again." – Rajesh Verma, K4SK, Duval County ARES

"That is an incredible video and I appreciate and thank you for including us in your experience! I can't wait to share this wonderful video! Thank you again!" – Danielle, Sol-Tac.

My one purchase was an Explorer backpack, which Jason KC5WHB helped design. I was also gifted two challenge coins from Michael KK4UQP, who led me through the Duval County ARES communication trailer.

Explorer Modular Backpack System 2.0 - HamRadio 2.0 Special LIMITED Edition.

Challenge coins from the Atlantic Beach Public Safety Ham Radio Club.

Please check out the HamCation 2026 video on our club's YouTube channel. The direct link to the video is: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9A5z3AlltME. My wife and I had a great time, and I look forward to covering future amateur radio conventions.

- Rob AD2CT

Peekskill / Cortlandt Amateur Radio Association

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E-Mail: mail 'at' pcara.org
Web site: http://www.pcara.org
PCARA on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/pcararadio
YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/@peekskillcortlandtamateurr7670

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Newsletter contributions are always very welcome!
Archive: http://nm9j.com/pcara/newslett.htm

PCARA Information

PCARA is a **Non-Profit Community Service Organization**. PCARA meetings take place every month (apart from July/August break). See http://www.pcara.org for current details.

PCARA Repeaters

W2NYW: 146.67 MHz -0.6, PL 156.7Hz
KB2CQE: 449.925MHz -5.0, PL 179.9Hz
N2CBH: 448.725MHz -5.0, PL 107.2Hz

PCARA Calendar

Sat Mar 7: PCARA Monthly Meeting, 10:15 a.m., Putnam Valley Library, 30 Oscawana Lake Rd., Putnam Valley, NY. Guest speaker Andy Stewart, KB1OIQ, developer of Andy's Ham Radio Linux.
Sat Mar 7: PCARA V.E. Test Session, 11:30 a.m., Putnam Valley Library, see below.
Sat Mar 21: PCARA Breakfast, 9:00 a.m., Uncle Giuseppe's, 380 Downing Dr, Yorktown Heights, NY.

Hamfests

Check with organizers before leaving.
Sun Mar 15: New Jersey Antique Radio Club Swapmeet, Parsippany PAL, 33 Baldwin Rd, Parsippany, NJ. 8:00 a.m.
Sun Mar 22: Southington ARC Hamfest, Southington High School, 720 Pleasant St., Southington, CT. 8:30 a.m.
Sun May 3: Orange County ARC Hamfest, Black Rock Fish & Game Club, 5 Pleasant Hill Rd., Mountainville, NY. 8:00 a.m.

VE Test Sessions

Check with the contact before leaving.
Mar 7: PCARA, 11:30 a.m., Putnam Valley Library, 30 Oscawana Lake Rd., Putnam Valley NY. Must contact VE Rob AD2CT, ad2ct'at'arrl.net. ARRL VEC.
Mar 12: WECA, Westch Cnty Fire Trg Center, 4 Dana Rd Valhalla NY. 7:00 p.m. Contact VE, rcasino48'at'gmail.com.
Mar 20: Orange County ARC, Munger Cottage, 40 Munger Dr., Cornwall NY. 6:00 p.m. Contact VE: w2bcc@arrl.net.

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